

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry "documentary" days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get abuse of that privilege and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away being used to inappropriately (if not illegally) influence the election and spread information of questionable veracity, it's more important that we see people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter to them.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.